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The Cowbird breeding in Saskatchewan is considerably larger than that frequenting our Eastern States, as is shown by the subjoined measurements of breeding birds. The bird breeding in eastern North Dakota is intermediate, but somewhat nearer that in Saskatchewan. The bird inhabiting Alberta, Manitoba, and northern Montana is doubtless the northern race, but I have not seen specimens from those localities.

As *Fringilla pecoris* Swainson was based on "The Cowpen Bird" of Catesby, and *Oriolus fuscus* Gmelin and *Oriolus ater* Boddaert on birds taken in New York, neither name can be applied to the unrecognized race. Therefore I have taken the liberty of calling it after my friend, Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., though giving a proposed subspecies his name is but a poor tribute to his ornithological ability, knowledge and zeal.

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## THE INCREASE OF AUSTRAL BIRDS AT ITHACA.

BY ALBERT H. WRIGHT AND ARTHUR A. ALLEN.

SITUATED at the head of Cayuga Lake, Ithaca lies about midway between the Susquehanna basin and the Austral territory along the south shore of Lake Ontario. To the south, the Inlet and Six Mile Creek Valleys lead to the divide and have their origins in the same marshes with the headwaters of the Susquehanna. To the north, Cayuga Lake and the Seneca River form a natural highway to this Lake Ontario strip. This area, due to the isolating Transition and Canadian territory to the south, undoubtedly receives its Austral birds from those migrating up the Mississippi Valley. Thus it is possible for Austral forms appearing at Ithaca to be either coastal species working their way up the Susquehanna or Mississippi birds coming down Lake Cayuga from the north. With certain birds the direction of invasion seems quite apparent, with others, it is difficult or impossible to state with certainty.

The purpose of this paper, however, is not so much to determine the probable route of migration as to show the encroachment of Austral forms within recent years and their remarkable appearance

in this spring's (1909) migration. For during the last ten years of careful migration studies at Ithaca, no one phenomenon has arrested more attention than this gradual extension of Austral birds into our fauna. And inasmuch as there seems to be similar invasions taking place elsewhere,<sup>1</sup> we thought it well to call attention to such data as has been collected at Ithaca.

Since 1850, the following Austral species have been recorded, the accompanying list indicating the distribution and the number of records or relative abundance of each form.

Species	North end 1850-1909	South end	
		1850-1908	1909
American Egret	2		
Glossy Ibis	9		
Whooping Crane	1		
Dickcissel	1		
Golden-winged Warbler	6		
King Rail	not uncommon summer resident	1	
Florida Gallinule	common summer resident	2	3 pairs nested
Hooded Warbler	resident	rare migrant	rare migrant
Purple Martin	"	"	"
Cerulean Warbler	"	"	"
Turkey Vulture	1	1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	3	
La. Water-Thrush	not common	common	common
Rough-winged Swallow	fairly common	"	"
Carolina Wren		2 pairs	
Barn Owl	3	7	
Orchard Oriole	2	5	2
Grasshopper Sparrow		uncommon	common
Chewink		"	not uncommon
Yellow-breasted Chat		"	"
Worm-eating Warbler			1
White-eyed Vireo			1
Tufted Titmouse			1
Prothonotary Warbler			1

<sup>1</sup> Trotter, Spencer. The Geological and Geographical Relations of the Land-Bird Fauna of Northeastern America. Auk, Vol. XXVI, July, 1909, pp. 221-233.

Townsend, Chas. W. A Carolina Wren Invasion of New England. Auk, Vol. XXVI, July, 1909, pp. 263-269.

From this table it may be seen that certain forms which have appeared at the north end or even established themselves there have, as yet, either not reached the south end or, with one exception, occur there only as rare migrants. This exception, the Florida Gallinule, previous to 1909, had been recorded at Ithaca but twice. This year at least three pairs nested. Other species are of about equal distribution at both ends and still others, notably those showing marked increase of late years, are more abundant at the south than at the north end.

Of these, the Barn Owl and Orchard Oriole, although manifesting no decided influx during 1909, have undoubtedly been on the increase during the past decade. Our first record of the Barn Owl at this end of the lake was at the divide, Dec. 1, 1904. In 1907 at Ithaca, four more were taken and in 1908, one at Ithaca, June 6, and another at the divide, Nov. 27. The first Orchard Oriole at Ithaca was recorded May 3, 1890. An interval of 12 years elapsed before the second record in 1902 when a pair was recorded June 7. None were then seen until 1908, when a pair nested in the Inlet Valley just south of Ithaca. This pair returned this spring (1909).

More pronounced than the above, however, has been the increase of Grasshopper Sparrows, Chewinks and Yellow-breasted Chats, especially during 1909. The Grasshopper Sparrow, though previously never rare, became this year very abundant along South Hill on the east side of the Inlet Valley. The Chewink, formerly an uncommon but regular summer resident, during the last two or three years has become almost common. The Chat, previous to 1900 was of very unusual occurrence; from 1900 to 1902, one pair was seen; from 1903 to 1905, two pairs each year; in 1906 and 1907, 3 or 4 pairs; in 1908, 5 or 6 pairs, and in 1909, along the Inlet Valley alone, 8 to 12 pairs nested. The increase of these birds has been particularly marked over an area formerly heavily forested with pine,—a condition not unlike that reported<sup>1</sup> directly south of us in the Susquehanna Valley (Luzerne and Sullivan Cos., Pa.), where the Chewink and Chat have likewise increased.

Previous to 1909, the last four species mentioned in the list had not been recorded in our fauna:—May 6, the Worm-eating War-

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<sup>1</sup> Auk, Vol. XXVI, July, 1909, pp. 229-230.

bler was taken on the Cornell Campus; May 30, the White-eyed Vireo in the Inlet Valley; May 31, the Tufted Titmouse at the divide; and June 12, at the head of the Lake, the Prothonotary Warbler.

Thus we have four Austral species simultaneously invading a region previously unknown to them and at the same time, an increasing abundance in the Austral forms already resident. The direction of this invasion has been undoubtedly from the south by way of the Susquehanna but speculations as to the reasons ought not to be given until it is determined whether this movement is general or purely local. Before these can be formulated, the coöperation of other observers is necessary and it is with this in view that we have submitted our data from Ithaca.

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## NOTES ON SOME OHIO BIRDS.

BY W. F. HENNINGER.

### *Plate VI.*

1. **Florida cærulea.** LITTLE BLUE HERON.—On August 16, 1909, a young male in the white plumage with the slaty primary tips was shot at the Loramie Reservoir in Shelby County, Ohio, and is now in my collection. Since July 2, 1902, when I recorded this bird for the last time in southern Ohio (Auk, Vol. XIX, October, 1902, p. 396) no other specimens seem to have been recorded from the State. The above mentioned specimen is the eleventh one I have recorded in Ohio since August, 1901, more than any other ornithologist has seen in the State and more than all the other records put together.

2. **Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis.** BLACK TERN.—This bird, which I found nesting in the Sandusky Bay marshes in 1903, 1904, and 1907, and which Dawson and Jones found plentifully in August, 1902, along the Ohio River, is a rare migrant in middle western Ohio. Three were seen April 19, 1909, one on May 14, 1908, and a young male was shot on August 31, 1909, at the Grand Reservoir. They evidently make two broods in the Sandusky Bay